

The Great Mortality: The Plague in Europe

**Black
fleas
rats**

**buboes
Jewish
Scandinavia**

**bubonic
pandemic
Sicily**

**Flagellants
population
wages**



A woodcut depicting a man infected with plague and buboes under his skin.

In 1347, a great calamity known as the _____ Death struck Europe. This plague was brought to Europe by galleys coming back from the Crimea to _____. From Sicily, the plague spread north into Europe and by 1350, it had spread as far north as _____.

The plague was spread by _____ who lived in the fur of _____ and other rodents. It caused swollen bumps, called _____, on people's skin that oozed puss and blood when cut open. And so, the plague is often called the _____ plague. The plague was _____, meaning it was widespread over many regions. By the time the plague died out, between one-third and two-thirds of the _____ of Europe had been decimated.

The plague had a great effect on European society. Some groups saw the plague as punishment for their sins and began whipping or beating themselves. These people were called _____. Other Europeans began attacking _____ communities who they accused of poisoning the wells. Some people, such as workers, even benefited from the plague as they could ask for higher _____ since the drastic decrease in population meant there was a huge shortage of labor.

